

I am appalled at the Governor's elimination of the funding for the Community Investment Act. This state has been a bell weather in the struggles to retain the history of our country through progressive legislation -- whether buildings, barns, parks or other historic properties. That this has personally benefited many by providing the opportunity to sustain history is clear to me. My family has lived in Connecticut since about 1670 and in the same location in Cheshire since 1733 where we still farm. That we were able to afford the preservation of our barns was made possible by one of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation grants.

Moreover, the noted land scape architect Frederick Law Olmsted is a native son of Connecticut. His parks and other now historic landscapes have proved so much to the pleasure of our local citizens and around the United States. The legislature included Olmsted in its Hall of Fame this year! It surely would be an anomaly if the funding for preservation was not sustained by the same legislature! The preservation movement of Olmsted's contributions to the State of Connecticut and our nation are of additional concern, as it is to the thousands who have enjoyed the many parks that he created. That Connecticut would abandon funding when it has such a world renowned native son is unimaginable. Once again the general has a specific reference for me as "Fred" is a first cousin to our family as his mother and my great grandmother were sisters. He often visited his cousins and lived with the family in 1844-45 while adventuring into farming. The hemlocks he planted are still to be seen near our house. In addition, my great grandmother lived with his family to go Mrs. Sigourney's school in Hartford.

Please vote to reinstate the funding of the Community Investment Act.

Margaret Jean McKee